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ABSTRACT

This is the fourth consecutive year that Hofstra University has cooperated with the American Council on Education and the University of California at Los Angeles (ACE/UCLA) in its minth annual survey of American freshmen. The Student Information Form (SI?) was the survey instrument. Results indicate that the Hofstra data are consistent with the national trends in all but a few instances. Nationally, and at the private colleges, the percentage of freshmen with parents in the \$30,000 or over category is increasing, while at Hofstra that percentage is decreasing. Hofstra is seeing its increase more in the middle income range. The racial makeup of Hofstra freshmen continues to remain essentially the same. However, the percentage of Jewish students in Hofstra's freshmen class has been decreasing since 1971, the first year for which there is data. The percentage of men in the freshmen class has risen from 51 percent to 61 percent in the last four years. Business continues to be a very prominent major and career choice at Hofstra. Fewer Hofstra freshmen this year believe it is important to develop a philosophy of life or to influence social values than in past years. The fact that freshmen were offered financial assistance caused this to be the second most important reason for selecting Hofstra; academic reputation continues as the number one reason. (Author/PG)

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

. HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY

Characteristics of 1971 - 1974 Hofstra Freshmen

Pauline Lichtenstein and Cheryl Block

U \$ DEPARTMENT OF MEALTH,

EDUCATION & WELFARE

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF

EDUCATION

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This is the fourth consecutive year that Hofstra University has cooperated with the Cooperative Institutional Research Program of the American Council on Education and the University of California at Los Angeles (ACE/UCLA) in its ninth annual survey of American freshmen. The Student Information Form (SIF), the survey instrument used, is "revised annually to reflect the changing concerns of the academic community." This revision, however valuable, accounts for the missing data on several variables. A slight change in the wording of some of the questions makes it difficult to determine whether or not the change is real or is a result of the perception of a different question. Of the 300,000 responses to the questionnaire received by the CIRP, 190,000 from freshmen entering 364 institutions were determined to be representative and used in calculating normative data for many groupings of institutions.

For the second year, the CIRP has prepared and published national norms based on the selectivity of the college. In Hofstra's attempt to understand its place relative to colleges with different levels of selectivity, we have included such norms for 1973 and 1974 for 4-year private nonsectarian colleges. The selectivity definition is based on average combined SAT scores. Hofstra was assigned to the medium category (1000-1149). We show that norm as well as low (999 or less), high (1150-1249), and very high (1250 or greater) selectivity. As in past years, normative data for freshmen at all 4-year colleges are also included. We are thus able to see trends over the same four years for which we have Hofstra data.

Data are reported as percentages to the nearest whole number. Items omitted from this year's questionnaire are not included in the report except where they can be used to help interpret a new item.

Several national trends at all 4-year coileges become apparent upon examination of the data. As the average high school grade of freshmen continues to increase somewhat, so do their expectations for achieving at least a 'B' average in college. The average income of parents continues to increase slightly. There is a decline in freshmen concern about financing their college education. Freshmen consider themselves less liberal politically - more "middle-of-the-road" - even at the private high and very high selectivity schools. The percentage of those who wish to abolish college grades has dropped significantly over the recent years as well as the percentage of those who believe that college officials have been too lax on student protests on campus. The trend toward less concern with environmental pollution also continues.

The Hofstra data are consistent with the national trends mentioned above in all but a few instances. Nationally, and at the private high and very high selectivity colleges, the percentage of freshmen with parents in the \$30,000 or over category is increasing, while at Hofstra, that percentage is decreasing. Hofstra is seeing its increase more in the middle income range. The racial makeup of Hofstra freshmen continues to remain essentially the same. However, the percentage of Jewish students in Hofstra's freshman class has been decreasing since 1971, the first year for which we have data. The percentage of men in the freshman class has risen from 51% to 61% in the

last four years. Business continues to be a very prominent major and career choice at Hofstra. Fewer Hofstra freshmen, this year, believe it is important to develop a philosophy of life or to influence social values than in past years. The fact that freshmen were offered financial assistance climbed to the second most important reason for selecting Hofstra; academic reputation continues as the number one reason.

How do the Hofstra freshman compare to those at high and very high selectivity colleges? As was observed last year, a much larger percentage of freshmen at Hofstra expect to major in business than at the high and very high selectivity schools where a much larger percentage expect to major in the social sciences. Freshmen at Hofstra till plan to pick careers where there is opportunity for rapid upward advancement, where they will be well off financially, and where the occupation is highly respected. On the other hand, students at high and very high selectivity colleges still plan to pick careers where they can contribute to society, work with ideas, and where they have an instrinsic interest in the field. Hofstra freshmen think it is much less likely that they will change their major or career or seek any kind of counseling than students at more selective colleges. A larger proportion of Hofstra freshmen plan to complete their higher education with a bachelor's degree and a smaller proportion with a Ph.D. or Ed.D than freshman at higher selectivity colleges. However, about the same proportion at Hofstra plan to acquire professional degrees and master's degrees as at the more selective colleges.

It is interesting that there are four achievement items that a larger percentage of Hofstra freshmen expect to accomplish than any other freshman group in this report, i.e. "graduate with honors", "be elected to an academic honor society", "make at least a 'B' average", and "be more successful than most."

Students at Hofstra see themselves as much less liberal, do not place great importance on influencing the political structure or even keeping up with political affairs in comparison to high and very high selectivity colleges. Hofstra students estimate that they are also much less likely to be satisfied with their college than students at the other private schools, however, the percentage of Hofstra freshmen expecting to be satisfied with their college increased this year over last.

Parental income at higher selectivity schools is much higher than at Hofstra and Hofstra students get less support of \$1000 and over from their parents, work more at outside jobs, get less support from work study and more support from state scholarships and grants except in the \$1000 or over category where other medium selectivity colleges receive more aid. Due to the fact that this is a new series of questions, however, further comparisons cannot be made.

The most important reason given by all freshmen, including Hofstra freshmen, for selecting their college was the quality of the academic reputation. However, the percentage of Hofstra freshmen stating this was smaller than the percentage at the other private colleges, although higher than last year. The second most important reason for Hofstra freshmen was that they were offered financial assistance. (There has been a 9% increase since 1973 of those at Hofstra checking the financial aid category.)

The percentage of commuters among freshmen at Hofstra is much greater and conversely, the proportion of dorm residents is much smaller than at the other colleges.

In summary, several trends about the Hofstra freshman class of 1974 are worth noting. The proportion of men in the class continues to increase. The entire class continues toward the middle-of-the-road politically and away from liberalism. More of this year's freshmen come from middle income families than in recent years, and there has been a sizeable increase over 1973 of those expressing financial aid offered as a very important reason in selecting Hofstra. A larger percentage of the freshmen also noted academic reputation as being an important factor in their decision, to come to Hofstra this year than last year. More Hofstra freshmen this year aspire to bachelor's degrees and professional degrees and fewer to graduate degrees than last year. The percentage of students with an 'A' average in high school increased from 22% to 33%. Probably reflecting this increase in academic quality, a much greater percentage of this year's freshman class than last year's expect to graduate with honors be elected to an honor society, make at least a 'B' average, get a bachelor's degree, and be more successful than most. There is a moderate increase over last year in the number of freshmen who expect to be satisfied with Hofstra and a slight decrease in the number who expect to transfer to another school.

We have certainly not discussed all of the specific comparisons possible in this report, and leave it to the reader to do so. Several other norms are available at our office.

Percentage Responses by Hofstra Freshmen Compared to College Freshmen throughout the U. S.

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Percentage Responses by Hofstra Freshmen Compared to College Freshmen throughout the U.S.

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Percentage Responses by Hofstra'Freshmen Compared to College Freshmen throughout the U. S.

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Percentage Responses by Hofstra Freshmen Compared to College Freshmen throughout the U. S.

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Percentage Responses by Hofstra Freshmen Compared to College Freshmen throughout the U.S.

	Hofstra-Main Can	Campus		ł		National		Norms	,		
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• •			•	AGREE	Government	coll	College	cambus	Stude	Abolish college	Le-emphasize organized	Regulate	College has right	rrelerential treatment	disa	College too lax on student protest	Adopt	co11	Use s	Gov't not	Gov't not	Too many rights for		Should	Should	Women snouta	Decri do		weating should pay mode taxes	need more grants,	Young understand more about sex	Young more idealistic	Out 188	Sex 0	Not obe Should	
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entage Responses by Hofstra Freshmen Compared to College Freshmen throughout the U.S.

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Item	1971	1972	1973	1974	133	177	13	174-	173	21	73 74	74	1971	1972	1973	1974	(
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Achieve in a performing art	21	18	27	18	21	15,	76	16		. 23		(D)	14	13	22	. 6	
Be an authority in my field	19	19	9	62	99	65	\mathfrak{S}	99		. 2 3		4	61	62	79	79	
Influence political structure	18	17.	15	14	16	71	IJ	16	20	19	24	24	16	17	16	7	B
Influence social values	32	30	5 6	21	31	32	33	29,		53		.	31	32	33	8	EST
Raise a family	62	89	59	57	58	-26	59	52		52		4	62	99	26	56	C
Be administratively responsible	14	18	21	19	30	. 97	22.	22		19		7	19	23	26	25	OP
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무	. 62	68	62 .	27	79	65	. 17	70		63		. *	. 99	.70	89	65	AV.
Participate in community action*	12	11	25	(26)	32	(30)	32	(33)		31)		(2)	16	13	£	(31)	VIL/
Keep up with political affairs	55	9	53	47	44	41	949 .	643	1	5		. 2	95	52	45	40	IBL
Succeed in my own business	32	43	43	37	-47	45	9	40		36		7	38	41	39	36	E
Help clean up environment	42	48	31	. 21	37	58	. 33	3 6		90		1	4	45g	34	36	
Develop a philosophy of life	77	78	.68	9	72	67	75.	73	. 1	71	٠	9	72	75	72	65	
Obtain recognition from colleagues				27		41		41 .		1;	7,5	Q				04	
Make theoretical contribution to						•	h					,	:			,	
science				12		ÍI,	* .	ĹĴ	•	11					,	13	
Write original works				13		IJ,	•	17		91	.4	S.		^	•	14	
Create artistic work				10	. •	19	7.	17.		15 .	•	, 71			,	23	
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*The 1973 item was "becoming a community leader."

rcentage Responses by Hofstra Freshmen Compared to College Freshmen thronghout the H. S.

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		•		ESTIMATE CHANCES ARE			with honors	a student office	aternity or sorority	an honor society	a 'B' average			1 counseling	counseling .	rs course	sful than most	temporarily	nently	to another college	ith my college	s degree	n field after	,	in coeducational dorm	a commune while in college	AS VERY IMBORTANT	THIS COLLEGE	(parents) wanted me to	good teputation	academic reputation	•	Advice of someone who attended	• ,
	•		Item	STUDENTS ESTIM	VERY GOOD THA	Fail one or mo	Graduate with	Be elected to	Join social fraternity		at least		Work at outside	Seek vocational	Seek personal counseling	Enroll in honors course	Be more successful than	Drop out tempo		Transfer to an	Be satisfied with my college	Get a bachelor's degree	Find job in own field after	graduation	Live in coeduc	Live in a comm	REASONS NOTED	IN SELECTING	Relatives (par	lege h	good	Low tuition	Advice of some	•

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Percentage Responses by Hofstra Freshmen Compared to College Freshmen throughout the U. S.

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Same year as entered college (1974)		6 96	97 9	98	95	95	67.6	98.	80 80	07	07		70	9	ò	
Before year of entry to college		**	7	m		47		•					j.	א ס ע	8 <	
High School equivalency (G.E.D.)		•	*	*	*	*	•*		*	, 70	*		•) *	; *	
Never completed High School		•	 1	`	*	=	*	*	*					*	*	
FINANCIALLY INDEP. THIS YEAR	•				•		• • ••						•			
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Percentage Responses by Hofstra Freshmen Compared to College Freshmen throughout the U. S.

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98	01	İtem 19		INDEPENDENT OF PARENTS None &	\$3,000-\$4,999 \$5,000-\$9,999 \$10,000 or more	HOFSTRA CHOICE (Own College) First choice Second choice Less than second choice	REASONS CHECKED AS VERY IMPORTANT FOR LONG-TERM CAREER CHDICE Job openings available Rapid advancement High anticipated earnings Respected occupation Independence

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Percentage Responses by Hofstra Freshmen Compared to College Freshmen throughout the U.S.

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ra-Me	2	965	1972		•	•									•			•		•	•						
Hofstra-Main Campus		9	1971	©		. .				ί.				•			•				•			•	,	ę	•
*			Item	REASONS CHECKED AS VERY IMPORTANT FOR LONG-TERM CAREER CHOICE (Cont'd)	Chance for steady progress	Contributions to society	Avold pressure	Work With ideas	be neighful to others Work with people	Intrinsic interest in field		DENTIFY WITH PEOPLE WHO LIVE	IN MY COMMUNITY	Little of none,	Stronel	Strongest of all	IDENTIFY WITH PEOPLE OF OWN	•	Little or none	Moderately	Strongest of all		IDENTIFY WITH PROPLE OF OWN SEX	witte of nome Moderately	Strongly	Strongest of all	
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Percentage Responses by Hofstra Freshmen Compared to College Freshmen throughout the U. S.

	Very	Low Med. High High 1971 1972 1973 1974		14, · 16	L7 4 87	j			3 3 4 5	. 32	42 45 42	27 . 26	*		58 72 78 91 60		24 22	55 56	. 27 25 26	92 – 11.	52 54	41 48 56	23	51, 50 62	42	14 15 13	29 33 49	32 39 38 42 34	36 35 37
Hofstra-Main Campus	1000 965 826 668	Item 1971 1972 1973 1974	7.	Little or none	Moderately 46	Strongly	Strongest of all	IPENTIFY WITH PEOPLE OF OWN GENERATION	Little or none	Ly	Strongly		TRAIT SELF-RATINGS (% OF SELF-RATINGS	ABOVE AVERAGE)		Athletic ability 39	lity	S.		•	Meth obtil to	Mothentost shill to	Ortotas ter	49	rnysical attractiveness	conservatism	11beralism (Pomulacity	fogulating with opposite sex

Percentage Responses by Hofstra-Freshmen Compared to College Freshmen throughout the W., S.

	Hofstra-Main Camp	Campus	•	•	Netional	Norme			
	N=.		-7	4-Year Private	0	4	All 4-Year Col	Colleges	
	0 070 COC 000T	0. 0. 0.	*			Very	•		
Item	1971 1972 1973 1974	3 1974	73 , 74	73 74	High '73. '74	High '73 '74	1971 1972 1973	1974	
TRAIT SELF-RATINGS (% OF SELF-RATINGS ABOVE AVERAGE)	,	a			1		,	·,	
Public speaking ability	•	28	74	33	33				
Self-confidence (intellectual)		20	43	57	3 K	9	•	57	_
Self-confidence (social)		40	38	. 42	3	83	•		
Sensitivity to criticism		31	26	32	32	38		, e	
Stubbornness		39	35	36.	70	41	•	3 %	
Understanding of others	•	72	70	11	74	78	agg r	5	
Writing Ability		. 95	, 33	97	45	63	,	*	
RESIDENCE DURING FALL TERM			•						
With parents or relatives	71	73	22 19	25 14	7	(Part)	76	23	
Other private home of apartment	با	· •		٠.	*	*	,		
College dormitory .	. 27	27	68. 75	73 85	87 87	96 96	. 72	.72	
Fraternity or sorority house	*	*	*	*	S	*	*) , . 4	
Other campus housing	*	*	3	*	*	2 2	497.		
Other	•	* '	*	* * /	*	*	; 	i -}¢	